

# News from Ed Markey

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 12, 2005**

**CONTACT: Tara McGuinness**

**Mark Bayer**

**(202) 225-2836**

## **FEMA DIRECTOR FINALLY STEPS DOWN AFTER DAYS OF WHITE HOUSE DEFENSE OF HIS RECORD OF DISASTER**

**Washington, D.C.** – A little over one week ago President Bush was standing side-by-side with top U.S. disaster official Michael Brown viewing the government response to Katrina damages in Mississippi saying, “Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job.” Two weeks later, as President Bush’s job approval rating plummeted to an all time low at 38%, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown announced his resignation. Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee made the following statement in response to Michael Brown’s resignation.

“The Federal response to Hurricane Katrina was needlessly delayed, and so was Michael Brown's resignation. President Bush should have fired Michael Brown last week. Instead President Bush protected his friend for over 2 weeks, leaving a vacuum of leadership at FEMA in the middle of a national catastrophe while waiting for him to step down,” said Rep. Markey. “We cannot afford to have another disaster or terrorist incident with someone at the helm who lacked confidence from everyone except perhaps the President of the United States. Perhaps this time President Bush will choose someone who is qualified,” Markey concluded.